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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 192129
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AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192129

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE
LIMDIS
FOLLOWING REPEAT BUJUMBURA 0864 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
INFO KIGALI JUL 25.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0864

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CASC, BY
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPLAINS EXPULSION OF SEVENTH DAY
ADVENTIST MISSION HEAD

REF: A BUJUMBURA 851, B BUJUMBURA 852, C BUJUMBURA 855

1. DIRECTOR JOSEPH NTAKABANYURA CALLED ME IN
AT 3:30 TUESDAY, JULY 25 TO PROVIDE ME WITH
EXPLANATION REQUESTED REF C.

2. NTAKABANYURA SAID HE HAD CONTACTED DIRECTOR
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PAGE 02 STATE 192129

OF SURETE THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR
GENERAL ANTOINE NDUWAYO AND OBTAINED THE
FOLLOWING EXPLANATION FOR LEONARD ROBINSON'S
EXPULSION.

3. PASTORS AND MEMBERS OF THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
CHURCH HAD CONTESTED ROBINSON'S AUTHORITY AND

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

COMPLAINED ABOUT HIM TO THE BURUNDI AUTHORITIES. THIS COMPLAINT HAD CREATED CHAOS IN THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN BURUNDI AND MR. ROBINSON'S RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS IN THE UNITED STATES MUST CERTAINLY BE AWARE OF THE DISPUTE. SINCE THE RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS HAD NOT RECALLED MR. ROBINSON THE GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI HAD DECIDED THE DISPUTE IN FAVOR OF THE PASTORS AND OTHERS WHO HAD CONTESTED ROBINSON'S AUTHORITY. THIS DECISION HAD NOT ARISEN FROM A GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI INITIATIVE. IT HAD ARISEN FROM WITHEN THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH.

4. IN SUMMARY ACCORDING TO NTAKABANYURA THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS HAD BEEN:

A. A CHALLENGE TO ROBINSON'S AUTHORITY WITHIN THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN BURUNDI;

B. COMPLAINTS AGAINST HIM TO THE GOVERNMENT BY CHURCH MEMBERS, AND

C. A DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT IN FAVOR OF THE COMPLAINING CHURCH MEMBERS.

5. WHEN I ASKED NTAKABANYURA HOW THE CHURCH MEMBERS
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HAD COMPLAINED, HE SAID THEY HAD WRITTEN MANY LETTERS TO THE BURUNDI AUTHORITIES.

6. WHEN I ASKED IF ROBINSON HAD BEEN GIVEN AN EXPLANATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION, NTAKABANYURA REPLIED THAT WHEN ROBINSON HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE EXPULSION ORDER HE HAD ALSO BEEN INFORMED VERBALLY THAT IT HAD BEEN ISSUED UNDER ARTICLES TEN, ELEVEN, AND SIXTEEN OF THE LAW OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1962.

6. NTAKABANYURA SAID IT WAS NOW UP TO ROBINSON'S SUPERIORS IN THE UNITED STATES TO DESIGNATE HIS REPLACEMENT AS LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHURCH IN BURUNDI AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD EXAMINE THE DESIGNATION WITH A VIEW TO GRANTING THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORIZATION BY THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.

7. THE LAW OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1962 DEALS WITH IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENCE OF FOREIGNERS. ARTICLES TEN AND ELEVEN DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY REFERENCE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

TO ROBINSON'S CASE. ARTICLE SIXTEEN HOWEVER
CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING NAPOLEONIC CATCH-ALL:

QUOTE: THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR CAN BY A
DECREE BASED ON THE EVIDENCE OF REASON (ARRETE MOTIVE)
EXPEL FROM BURUNDI UNDESIRABLE FOREIGNERS OR THOSE
WHO BY THEIR PRESENCE OR THEIR CONDUCT COULD
COMPROMISE OR THREATEN TO COMPROMISE PUBLIC
TRANQUILITY OR ORDER END QUOTE. CORCORAN
UNQUOTE VANCE

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Draft Date: 29 jul 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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TAGS: PINS, CASC, SOCI, BY, US, (ROBINSON, LEONARD)
To: OUAGADOUGOU BAMAKO
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